

IDPH News Release

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IDPH Awarded \$1 Million for Health Insurance Benefit Exchange Plan

Grant will fund research, planning

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has received a \$1 million federal grant from the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight. The State Planning and Establishment grant, a part of federal health reform efforts within the Affordable Care Act, will be used to assist Iowa in the planning for the development of an Iowa Health Benefit Exchange.

The state-based exchanges are intended to make purchasing health insurance easier by providing eligible consumers and businesses with "one-stop-shopping" where they can compare and purchase health insurance coverage. The Affordable Care Act requires states to have an operational exchange by January 1, 2014 or the federal government will operate an exchange for the state.

"There are many considerations to be discussed as we move forward with the development of an Iowa Health Benefit Exchange. These grant funds will allow state government and stakeholders to thoroughly examine the issue and create a comprehensive plan for the state," said IDPH Director Tom Newton.

This grant is a collaborative effort with the Iowa Insurance Division, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Revenue. The agencies will work closely with the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Iowa's Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission, and will be seeking public input from consumers and businesses as part of the planning process.

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